

SWEET TOWER

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Construction Corner

Table of Contents

Introduction to Construction Corner

Sweet Tower Project

Tower Introduction

Tower Construction and Lesson 1

3 Additional Quartet Lessons

Tower Toolkit for Missions

Safety and Hygiene Guidelines and Disclaimer

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Construction Corner

Introduction

It's what we do! We humans like to assemble things... all of us. No matter who or where we are, we like to create things; to construct things. No matter if it's paint on a canvas, a garden of straight rows, a team of people or a tall office building, our minds and then our hands construct something functional or to be admired.

Our precious Bible, God's Holy Inspired Word, is without question, the most authoritative construction manual. We most often think of it as a guide for constructing a life and family that pleases God. But it's also superb at building the roof and walls, pews and pulpit, where fellowship meets with commitment. It teaches how to build a floating zoo, a holy palace, an altar, house, portable church, or a sink.

Construction Corner incorporates principles in scripture to build a hand-held structure. And then uses that structure to share one's faith in Jesus Christ, our Master Builder, with others – as though the structure was a spiritual hospital for broken lives and distressed hearts... or an altar on which to slay all our guilt.

Scripture says of itself: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *“That the man of God may be perfect, throughly*

furnished unto all good works.” (2nd Timothy 3:16,17 *perfect* = complete) All good works covers projects within technology and without.

As we begin constructing teaching tools with our hands, a great first principle is: *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”* (1st Corinthians 14:40) The three Construction Corner projects are each progressively more difficult, that have portions that can be done by every age or skill level – but more importantly can be done with a partner.

The SWEET TOWER theme is PREPARATION, the HIGH TOWER theme is PATTERNS, and the BUSH CHURCH theme is PARTNERING or unity. Each of them are best worked on, in one hour or less periods. Above all, an open Bible should be nearby so that all participants see that scripture and structure are always perfect partners. [~]

THE SWEET TOWER PROJECT

Purposes:

- (1) Assemble the tower while learning heavenly truths, often represented by items and instructions in the project.
- (2) The finished kit (project) then becomes a toolkit used by faith-based leaders, in basements, backyards, or jungle clearings.

Theme: Preparation

Towers mentioned in holy scripture, are the focus of many very powerful life principles to be learned by the very young, and also the advanced silver-hair generation.

Preparation is an operation critical to each of us that grows as do we. In Luke 14:28, 29 the picture lesson is given of a man to build a tower. He must prepare before building. He is to count the cost; in materials, money, time, and talent. In those days a tower was crucial to protecting ones crops and cattle against theft, weather, etc. The tower was their communication as they'd build a fire on top and signal to others. Towers often were their shelter of protection against the elements.

Note: Many towers had their sides covered. A man's tower also indicated how dedicated he was in building things.

Tower Construction.

(Note: Review the Safety, Hygiene, and Disclaimer Guidelines addendum.)

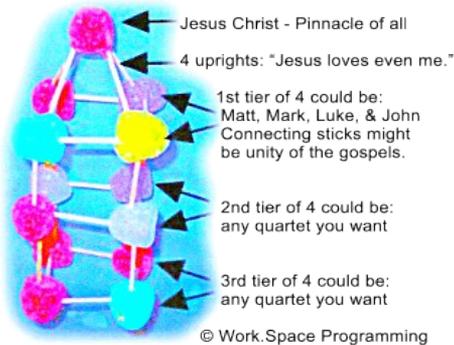
While the opening instructions may use candy gum drops, preferably you'll want to have your student(s) use playdough, clay, or partially dried mud. (the candy gets sticky).

Lesson 1

= I dropped a few JELLY BEANS into an aluminum pie pan. (noisy).

= I then had a couple students try to moderately squeeze a hard shelled jelly bean. We then did basically the same thing with a soft easily molded gum drop. We learned that God doesn't want hard headed people to serve Him but soft sweet spoken ones (like the gum drop).

=We then found the skills of each one of the students in sticking a gum drop on each end of a toothpick. If time allows, show them what they'll be doing in the next hands-on time. (Connecting 4 toothpicks with 4 gum drops in a circle.) This circle will represent the 4 gospel writers



united to telling us about Jesus.)

= Show your student(s) a picture of the Sweet Tower. Practice with them counting the gum drops and then the toothpicks. Note: in place of the gum drops you can use clay, playdough, potato chunks, or mud balls etc.

= Wherever possible, show the principle in an open Bible. Keep an open Bible near toolboxes or a project in progress. Begin with the base layer. As you construct it, suggest the four gum drops represent Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; the four Gospel writers that us so much about Jesus and His love.

= The second layer may represent the purpose of the Bible: (2nd Tim 3:16) Doctrine (rules), reproof (testing), correction (discipline), and instruction (learning).

Maybe before the Sweet tower is finished, you show the result, from scripture (Lu 14 :29) of a project started without preparation. This is also a good place to stress that others are watching what we do. We need to always maintain a clean clear joyful testimony for Jesus Christ.

= The third layer might represent the four areas of Jesus' life as he was growing up (Lu 2:52) Wisdom (mental), Stature (physical), Favor with God (spiritual), and Favor with Man (social).

= The peak represents only one way of salvation; Jesus Christ.

Lesson 2

Theme: Know your place God has chosen for you.

In Numbers chapter 2, God's word gives explicit directions of the four places the 12 tribes are to camp at. God has given you and I places of service in which we'll receive His greatest blessings.

Lesson 3

Theme: The Christian's daily manner of living in this present world, listed in Psalm 37. Here are four among many others:

Trust in the Lord & do good. Promises are then listed.

Delight thyself in the Lord... more provisions follow.

Commit thy way... He'll make it happen.

Rest in the Lord... and patiently wait on Him

Lesson 4

Theme: God shows He is in control & His blessing on His leader. Water is parted by God four times.

Red Sea: Moses leading Israel out of Egypt Ex. 14:21+

Jordan River: Joshua leading Israel into Canaan. Josh. 3

Jordan River: Elijah shows he's God's leader. 2Ki. 2:8+

Jordan River: Elisha shows he's God's leader. 2Ki. 2:14

Note: It's important that you teach your students realizing they are to re-teach lessons, in accordance with 2nd Tim 2:2. +

The Kit

In keeping with the functions of Construction Corner projects, the second phase of the SWEET TOWER project is turning the construction object(s) into a teaching toolkit that missionaries and faith-based leaders can use to teach others (and maybe even have them make another toolkit).



= The toolkit is simply any container that can be SEALED against weather or insects. This might be a plastic box or plastic bag.

= If the kits are to be transported, it would be advisable to include some soft packing. I used plastic pillow filler.

= The printed inserts can be designed by you, in the appropriate language. It can include instructions on how to create the Sweet Tower, Construction Corner concepts, additional lessons, stories, poems or images. Caution should be given to using copyrighted resources.

= Create a kit before time to ensure that adhesives are appropriate for the container, and to show your students the finished product.

DANGER! Some adhesives are very dangerous to humans. Read label warnings before choosing.

{End of Sweet Tower Project}

Safety and Hygiene Guidelines and Disclaimer

All of the Construction Corner projects are exciting ways to disciple the saved and unsaved, young and old in our Great Commission efforts. As with Nehemiah, we must be continually on guard that we don't give Satan an open door to derail our heartfelt God-honoring efforts. Here are just a few of the many considerations before and during student times:

- Provide opportunity for permissions, written and verbal for your students to be involved.
- Make sure student times are well defined in advance.
- Provide adequate responsible leadership and helpers suitable to the student's age group.
- If any snacks are provided, consider their limitations according to each student.
- Construction materials, tools, and methods must be carefully established to prevent any accidents or injury.
- In only a few cases, some used materials may be used. Consider any hygiene/sanitation preliminaries that might be needed.
- For the very small students, tools, and sharp materials must be kept away from the face.

There are certainly other considerations appropriate for this list you may think of.

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